

## B. R. T. STRIKE ORDER EXPECTED TO-NIGHT

Garrison Still Refuses to Treat With Union and Assumes All Blame.

### DAY'S NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Power House Workers Said to Be Ready to Go Out if the Trolleyman Quit.

"For good or for ill, I alone am responsible for action I have taken so far in this situation," said Lindsey M. Garrison to the B. R. T. union employees last night when his attention was called to the charge by B. R. T. union employees that he had been misled by company officials of the old regime and had not given an opportunity to the new organization to be heard. The executive committee of the B. R. T. union of the Amalgamated Association, in a written statement Saturday night declared that as an agent of the Federal court Receiver Garrison should allow the new union of employees to present its case. Mr. Garrison said last night that if there was any blame to be placed he would assume the responsibility.

"We have employed no strikebreakers and have taken on the usual number of men. None is being employed in anticipation of a strike," he said.

Trolleyman, subway, and elevated guards, porters, car cleaners, switchmen and workers in the mechanical department of the B. R. T. expect a strike will be ordered at the mass meeting of union employees, which is to take place to-night in Arcadia Hall, Halsey street and Broadway, Brooklyn.

Leaders Prepare for Strike. The situation developed in the labor situation yesterday. The executive committee met with P. J. O'Brien, William Collins and Thomas Shime of the National Amalgamated Association in the Hotel Continental yesterday to prepare for the strike. They will report to the meeting this evening that there is no other means of obtaining recognition of the new union from Receiver Garrison except by a walkout. Seven hundred signmen on the B. R. T. at the same time will take a strike vote in Triangle Hall, around the corner from Arcadia Hall. James Sheridan, president of the B. R. T. union, declared that the 12,000 employees of the company, at least 80 per cent, are in the new organization. Mr. Garrison said this estimate was greatly exaggerated.

The executive committee, being empowered to call a strike on the system, will notify the men to-night of the date for the walkout. P. J. O'Brien, one of the labor leaders, said the public would receive twenty-four hours' notice, and so it is taken to mean that he will quit Tuesday night or Wednesday. Mr. O'Brien said yesterday:

"I have received nothing to-day to indicate that any further steps are to be taken to avert a strike. No communication has been received from the Mayor since the National War Labor Board ordered the strike. I have just received a telephone message from a Mr. Welman stating that the officers of the B. R. T. had called meetings of the men to ask them not to go on strike."

Would Operate Under Handicap. While the company expects to operate its cars even in the event of a strike of the union employees, and immediately hire in the places of the strikers hundreds who have applied for jobs, the system will have to be run under a tremendous handicap, for it now appears that a number of the powerhouse employees will go out when the others do. Timothy Hooley of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen said last night:

"Many of the powerhouse men have had an organization for some time, and we now are organizing the rest of the men. Anything the street car men in Brooklyn do, the powerhouse men will do also."

### REDFIELD AFTER PROFITEER.

Calls Him Bolshevik Ally—Secretary Wilson Optimistic.

The profiteer is a help to the Bolshevik, Secretary of Commerce Redfield insists in the current number of the Investor and Trader, advance sheets of which were issued yesterday. In the same number Secretary of Labor Wilson and Secretary Redfield agree in their writings and everything points, once peace has actually arrived, to a decline in commercial and unparallied prosperity throughout the country.

The pessimistic note, however, is struck by Secretary Redfield, who denounces the profiteer for playing into the hands of the Reds. As against this Secretary Wilson writes his opinion that the unemployment problem is nearing the point of successful solution. The Secretary of Labor seems to have no fear of serious danger ahead because of unemployment.

### AUSTRALIAN LOSS IS 307,900.

That Number Represents Total Casualties in War.

MELBOURNE, Australia, April 13.—Australia's total casualties during the war, with the figures brought up to February 8 of the current year, totalled 307,900, according to a statement made public by the Government of the Commonwealth. The total forces of Australia, raised by voluntary enlistment, numbered 400,000 out of a total population of less than 5,000,000.

The casualties are divided as follows: Dead, 53,036; missing, 193; prisoners, 43; wounded, 164,808; sick, 82,489; unspecified, 219.

### MOYER AWAITING HIS SING SING SUCCESSOR

May Be Asked to Hold Over as He Probes \$8,100 Swindle.

Warden William Moyer of Sing Sing, whose resignation will take effect tomorrow, will be asked by Superintendent Charles F. Hattigan to hold office until his successor is appointed. The choice is understood to lie between James H. Moran, an Ossining publisher, and Edward V. Brophy of Portchester, with Mr. Hattigan favoring Mr. Moran. Mr. Brophy has the support of M. J. Walsh, Democratic leader, it is said.

Warden Moyer is engaged in clearing up the \$8,100 coal bill swindle, in which he has asked the aid of the metropolitan police. He has examined several convicted forgers in the prison in an attempt to obtain some information that may lead to the arrest of a man who signed himself W. F. Bonstein and received the warden's coal checks at an office at 21 Park Row.

One man questioned was Isaac Raines, former cashier of the Bank of Sing Sing, an inmate of the institution. Raines's reply was in a Shinkarian vein.

"You cannot say I did it. Never shake thy gory locks at me."

The warden believes that "Bonstein" was assisted by prison inmates and intends to carry the inquiry through. It was said that as a private citizen he was hampered in the investigation.

## UNIONS VOTE TO-DAY ON NEW PORT TIEUP

Paralysis of Harbor Depends on 5,000 Marine Workers on Railroad Jobs.

### NAVY ACTION IS MOOTED

Hylan Objected to by Labor as Mediator on Account of Palm Beach Picture.

The issue of federated unionism is at stake to-day in the vote of 5,000 marine employees of the United States Railroad Administration on the question of a strike to compel the Government to accede to their demands, which would virtually mean a closed shop. Two meetings will be held, and if the men vote to strike labor leaders will order to-night or to-morrow the complete tieup of all barges, lighters, tugs and dock equipment owned by the railroads. The avowed reason for the trouble is the discharge of eighty-four railroad employees for refusing to tow certain boats that had been blacklisted by the union leaders.

If the strike on railroad owned harbor craft is put into effect it will stop all water transportation around New York, including the majority of the ferries operating between the Manhattan and New Jersey and Brooklyn shores, as the private boat owners, operating all other equipment, have refused to meet demands formulated by the labor unions when the latter had, in turn, refused to accede to the ruling of the National War Labor Board. It is considered that there is little likelihood of a settlement.

The Labor Department and the War Labor Board have failed to bring the men and the employers together on terms satisfactory to both sides, and neither the State nor city government has offered to lend a hand for arbitration. Labor leaders, although labor leaders declared yesterday that it would be very improper for Mayor Hylan to attempt mediation, inasmuch as a picture had been taken showing him hobnobbing at Palm Beach with a boat owner.

The possibility of the navy commandeering all harbor equipment and operating it is not taken very seriously in any quarter, although labor leaders profess to see in that move the granting of an eight hour day and all their demands. The only chance of a solution of the trouble seems to lie in the action of the workers themselves. If the proposed strike of the railroad employees proves unpopular and there is only a halfhearted order to the order of the labor leaders some agreement may be reached. The strike, if there is a strike, is to be under the Marine Workers' Alliance, of which Thomas L. Delahanty is the head. The previous strike was partly broken up when a union of tide water boat men, under the leadership of John Brennan, ignored the orders of this union and went back to work under a compromise with the boat owners by which they obtained an increase in pay. This settlement was supposed to be permanent but it is understood that leaders of the marine workers insist that Brennan's union had no power to make a settlement with the owners.

### STRIKE AGAINST NEGROES.

Shipping Board Employees Demand Discharge of Colored Men.

Racial trouble at Pensacola, Fla., where it is reported, employees of the Shipping Board have refused to continue work until all negroes are discharged, will be repeated unless the Government takes a firm stand to break this strike. John R. Shillady, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said yesterday:

"There have been no reports of white soldiers objecting to colored soldiers fighting for democracy in France," he said. "If colored soldiers are good enough to fight with, are they not good enough to work with? The present situation may be the first of a series of similar outbreaks. A firm and unyielding stand now by the Shipping Board will prevent many later disturbances and will show that America means democracy for all her citizens."

### "BUY SUGAR NOW," IS FOOD BOARD ADVICE

Best Way to Be Protected During Coming Season.

The Food Administration is urging dealers in refined sugar to replenish their stocks now to insure against the possibility of local shortages, particularly in the eastern part of the country, when the demand for canning comes. It is pointed out that the demand may be further accentuated by the expected increase in sugar consumption and its products in candy and sweet drinks after prohibition becomes effective July 1.

The Food Administration's warning to "buy sugar now" is based in part on a desire that a full supply of sugar should become available to home canners for preserving this summer's fruit. It is estimated that the foreign demand for sugar this year will be 650,000 tons, as compared with 550,000 tons last year. Already 550,000 tons have been contracted for by Europe. This sugar will go forward in the first nine or ten months of the year, instead of being spread over the entire year. Ships have already been allocated for 60 per cent. of the amount.

"The foreign buyers are already taking steps to insure their getting their sugar," the official announcement says, "and if the American local buyers do not exercise precautions and continue to refrain from buying, they will find themselves unable to get the sugar they will require during the large consuming months from June 1 to October 1, since the refiners' ability to deliver is limited by their daily capacity, which will be taken to meet foreign contracts."

Sugar Equalization Board officials are of the opinion there is not any actual shortage of sugar now and no prospects of one. On the other hand, they say, there is no prospect of any material change in price that would justify merchants in delaying their buying orders.

Sugar prices vary from 12 to 15 cents a pound in Europe. Here the price is 10 cents a pound.

## LAWRENCE STRIKE INQUIRY IS ORDERED

Massachusetts Board to Get Textile Dispute Facts.

LAWRENCE, Mass., April 13.—Acting at the direction of Gov. Coolidge the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration will begin to-morrow an investigation of the strike of textile workers here which is entering upon its eleventh week. Several hundred witnesses are expected to testify and a report may not be made to the Governor for several weeks.

Representatives of the strikers and mill officials have been asked by the board to attend the hearings. A representative of the board said to-day that if any of those "requested" to testify failed to appear subpoenas would be issued.

The strike is an effort to enforce a demand for fifty-four hours pay for a working week of forty-eight hours. Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have not participated and most of the mills are in operation.

The investigation was ordered by Gov. Coolidge after a proposal for arbitration made by the strikers' committee had been rejected by the mill agents.

## BRONX OPENS DRIVE AT RENT PROFITEERS

Its Legislative Delegation and Justices Formulate Strong Campaign.

Bronx county's entire legislative delegation, its four Municipal Court Justices and most of the members of the official county family union yesterday in a plan to stir up the State's lawmakers to a realization that something must be done and done quickly to grant relief to rent payers who are being scourged by grasping landlords in these days of unreasonable rent boosting.

The conference took place at the headquarters of the Bronx Democratic County Committee at 423 Tremont avenue at 11 A. M. County Clerk Joseph M. Callahan acted as chairman. Those who took part in the discussion were Justices Harry Robitzek, Michael P. Scanlon, William E. Morris and Peter Shields, all of the Municipal Courts; State Senators John J. Dunnigan, Henry Shackno and Peter Abelen, Assemblymen Earl

Senate be asked to report out Assemblyman McKee's bill, which has passed the House, and which provides that before a landlord can increase the rent of a monthly tenant he must give twenty-one days' notice of the proposed increase.

That the Cities Committee of the Senate be asked to report out Assemblyman Fertig's bill, which has passed the House, extending from five to ten days the "hold over" period which Municipal Court Justices are authorized to prescribe in dispossession proceedings.

An amendment to Assemblyman Lyons's bill, providing that unless there is an agreement to the contrary, every tenancy should be presumed to continue until the following May 1 on the same terms and conditions.

The passage of a law, aimed at so-called "leasers," proposing the limiting of net profits of rents to 8 per cent., and if that be not feasible, imposing a tax on the income of all leased property above 8 per cent.

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Muller, Edward J. Flynn, William S. Evans, Robert S. Mullin, M. Melvin Fertig, Thomas McDonald, Joseph V. McKee and J. J. Fairfax. McLaughlin; George M. S. Schults, Surrogate; Edward Polak, Register; James A. Hamilton, Commissioner of Correction; Mrs. Harry Arthur and Robert L. Morin, president of the Board of Aldermen.

It was agreed by all the conferees that one of the most distressing features of the whole renting system at present is the continuous jacking up of rents without apparent rhyme or reason. In this connection the story was told of a Bronx policeman, who moved into five rooms about a year ago with the understanding that he as to pay \$29 a month. About five months ago the landlord raised the rent to \$32 and the cop didn't make any objection, thinking he was getting off easy. Then the landlord sold the house and three months ago the new landlord said he would have to have \$39.

The policeman kicked this time, but paid rather than go to the trouble of moving. A month ago the new landlord came around again and declared he would have to have \$45 a month. The policeman was indignant this time, but said he would pay the amount demanded provided he could remain undisturbed in the house until October 1 with no more raising of rent. This was agreed, but later the landlord came around again and said he would have to have \$55. The cop and the other tenants re-

fused to pay and all got dispossession notices.

It happened that one of the tenants induced the landlord to write on his rent receipt: "This rent will not be raised till October 1," and when the case came up in court the Magistrate held that the document "was a lease in writing" and the landlord lost.

Senator Dunnigan agreed to introduce in the Senate a bill substantially the same as one introduced by Assemblyman Lyons, but which will provide that every tenancy shall be presumed to continue until May 1, without a change in rent or other conditions, unless there is an agreement to the contrary in writing between the landlord and tenant.

It seemed to be the general opinion of all present that landlords, particularly the landlords of The Bronx, with whom they were better acquainted than with the landlords in other parts, are not so inclined "to milk" their tenants as the man who leases a building or apartment from the owner and proceeds to do a little landlording on his own account.

Some of the Justices said they find that practically all the trouble comes through the lessees, or "leasers," as they have come to be known. These "leasers" take the lease of an apartment, say for a year at \$5,000, give security, take over the renting machinery, jack up the rents, say to \$7,500 a year (there are instances of these cases on record), and then proceed to make the lives of tenants miserable if

they don't hand up gracefully. If they rebel to too great an extent they are dispossessed and new tenants are found who will consent to be gouged.

It was suggested that there should be legislation limiting the profit to a reasonable figure and out of the suggestion came a proposal that a bill be introduced limiting the profit to 8 per cent., or possibly imposing a tax on all income of leased property above 8 per cent. The opinion was expressed that the rents themselves be the basis of the tax.

County Clerk Callahan characterized the "leaser" as the "middleman in rents." He said the "leaser" risks nothing in these times as he knows his rent is always where he can get it.

The Bronx men will send a delegation to Albany on the Empire State express on Wednesday to appear before the Senate committee and ask them to report out the bills which they believe should be passed.

Following the conference, County Clerk Callahan told the four Municipal Court Justices that he proposes to send a letter to the law committee of the Bronx Democratic county committee urging it to ask lawyers to appear gratuitously in court to represent tenants summoned to court by landlords if upon examination of the facts they are satisfied tenants have been unfairly treated. Mr. Callahan asked the Justices to request volunteer lawyers to appear in case tenants are not represented.

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